

Live In
Torrance

Torrance Herald

Buy In
Torrance

Thirteenth Year—No. 11

Published Weekly

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1927

Every Thursday

5c per Copy

Wood Announces Torrance Park and Playground Program

RAID 3 TORRANCE POKER GAMES

Smith Burglary Case Hearing Is Featured by Sharp Clashes

BOARD TO IMPROVE TRACT

Big City Play Area and 20-Acre Park on School Land

TO SERVE BIG DISTRICT

Torrance to Be Made Center of School Athletics for Region

Herbert S. Wood, principal of Torrance High School, announced yesterday that the Board of Education has adopted plans for the development of the Torrance school property into a class A playground and park of major importance.

Plans call for the general improvement of most of the property. A playground supervisor will be in charge all through the year, and athletic grounds and equipment will be for the use of the public day and night.

Additional facilities will include outdoor handball, volleyball and basketball courts for public use. The baseball diamond and football gridiron will be seeded to lawn and a track will be put down. Bleachers will also be built.

The field will become the center for school playdays for the entire district, according to Mr. Wood. Twenty acres of the property will be developed into a park for public use. Lamps, trees and shrubs will be planted, and tables and benches provided. All of the trees and shrubs will be grown and planted by the agricultural and horticultural classes of the high school.

The development will give Torrance a playground to match the largest in Los Angeles and will furnish complete athletic facilities for adults as well as students. The program will also provide the city with a splendid 20-acre park which will be available for picnics.

Dwelling a Day March Building Permit Average

Home Units Run High Percentage, Records at City Hall Show

Building permits issued this month show that March construction is averaging better than a dwelling unit a day. Recent permits issued are as follows: J. E. Byrnes, 2626 Carson, stucco garage, \$240; Joe Peterson contractor, John Krick, 1133 Border, one-story brick garage, \$1000; C. T. McGrew & Son contractor, J. W. Cusick, 615 Border, four-room stucco house, \$2600; Dick Meeuwig contractor, Mrs. Nellie Bain, 1728 Arlington, frame garage, \$160; Donald Findley, 1223 Cedar, four-room house and garage, \$2150; Industrial Housing Corporation contractor, Industrial Housing Corporation, 2311 Norma, four-room house and garage, \$2150.

Owners Sign for Sepulveda Blvd.

Owners of several miles of property facing on the route of the proposed Sepulveda boulevard have signed petitions asking for improvement to be accomplished. This was revealed by reports of petition circulators at the meeting held in Lomita Friday night. John Holm of Lomita was elected a member of the executive committee of the Sepulveda Boulevard Association. The annual meeting of the organization will be held at 3153 Normandie avenue, Lomita, on Friday night, April 8.

Observations

'Business Is the Soul of America'—A Good Editorial by Merle Thorpe—A Code for Newspapermen

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

"BUSINESS is the soul of America." Foreign visitors, coming to borrow or beg, tell us so through profitable newspaper syndicates, or lectures at \$2.00 and \$3.00 and \$5.00 per. Demagogues and parlor pinkies scream the indictment ad lib. The pupil prays for us.

Babbitt-baiters shoot shafts of ridicule at the Big Butter and Egg Man; the intelligentsia patronize; clever writers tell us they must fabricate thrilling adventures for the tired business man. We put on a ready-made suit of sackcloth, flick cigar ashes over our vests, and bow our heads in shame. The soul of America is business, and business is sordid, money-grubbing.

But here comes a voice as one crying in the wilderness bidding us lift up our heads. "Our business intelligence," says the author of the article following, "has so far outgrown our political intelligence that it looms like a white lily on a stagnant pool."

Furthermore, the author has the temerity to say that business idealism and integrity are the cause of "This American Ascendancy."

The article will not convince nor convert the professional decrier of American business. But it will be worth while if it causes the business man to throw off his apologetic attitude and stand up a little straighter.

When I went to college twenty years ago, I was told there were just three white-collar jobs—the law, medicine, and the ministry. These are the professions. Professions, because they minister to mankind. The lawyer cures the legal ills of his neighbors; the doctor cures the physical ills; the minister the spiritual ills.

Business was looked upon as something a little bit lower than the professions. It took courage for a college man to say he was going into business. Shop-keeping, trade and barter, commercialism, money-making.

Why should the American business man be ashamed to admit he is making money? How measure business success except by the profit yardstick? The yardstick of the professions is the saving of a soul, obtaining justice for a client, the saving of a life. But a fair profit is just as professional. A bankrupt injures society no less than a poor doctor or a poor lawyer.

Monuments are not built to bankrupts—business or professional. This article should help business men to be proud that they have the profit motive. With few exceptions they are making money honorably, honestly, and for the good of the community. They, too, are professional in that they are providing material comforts for their fellow men. Business is raising the standards of living of millions of people, thus facilitating spiritual and mental growth. Luxuries of ten years ago—today's necessities. And the business man has made them so, not entirely from a motive of gain, but also because of an inner satisfaction, found alike in all of us—doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief—the satisfaction of having been of service to his kind.

Business, the soul of America? Why, yes, come to think of it. And may the soul march on, ministering to the comfort, convenience, and contentment of humanity. For that way lies also artistic, mental and spiritual development.—Merle Thorpe in Nation's Business.

PROF. L. N. FLINT, professor of journalism at the University of Kansas, recently compiled a code of personal ethics for the newspaper writer and editor that includes high ideals and practicality. The code was published in a pamphlet by the department of journalism of the university. It reads as follows:

- "I WILL REMEMBER
- "1 That when I write for print I put myself under an obligation to other people. Publishing a newspaper, large or small, is not merely a commercial activity, nor a form of amusement, but a rather serious effort to satisfy certain needs of the public.
- "2 That when, as a reporter, I use my eyes or ears or mind, I must constantly ask myself, 'Am I seeing or hearing or apprehending this thing as it really is? Am I getting at the truth?'
- "3 That when I write I must keep before me the reader, to be sure that I am giving him a true impression, satisfying his curiosity, holding his interest, adding to his knowledge or his happiness.
- "4 That as a journalistic writer I have the power to help good causes and to hinder bad ones, and that having such power I must use it or admit a failure in the line of duty.
- "5 That I owe it to myself, as well as to my readers, to seek diligently for the right word; to economize effort, both on my part and his, by using the fewest words that will express my thoughts.
- "6 That I should not sacrifice sincerity for mere cleverness, nor fairness for flippancy.
- "7 That humor is too fine a quality in writing to be degraded by bad taste or malice.
- "8 That a sense of proportion as well as an appreciation of reader's interest must be an active factor in judging news values.
- "9 That notwithstanding the fact that the readers of my paper have a right to expect me to give them the news, I must always consider the larger social interests in deciding what to print and what to omit.
- "10 That in matters affecting the feelings and rights of others my judgment is not as good as it might be, and I may without humiliation accept the guidance of judicious persons having the advantage of wider experience.
- "11 That courage and aggressiveness should be controlled by the spirit of fair play even to the point of admitting a mistake or changing a policy or showing impartiality where personal likes and dislikes are involved.
- "12 That unless I like journalism better than anything else, and unless I am reasonably sure that what I can do is worth doing, I had better work at something else."

Dr. Van Waters To Lecture Tonight At Women's Club

Persons who hear Dr. Miriam Van Waters speak at the Women's Clubhouse tomorrow night will be well repaid for their attendance, according to those who know of Mrs. Van Waters' ability as a speaker and her expert knowledge of child welfare work. She is referee of the Juvenile Court of Los Angeles and an internationally known writer and authority.

BIDS REJECTED

The Board of Trustees Tuesday night rejected all bids for the stockpiling of the city jail and ordered City Engineer Frank Leonard to do the work. The bids were twice the engineer's estimate of cost. One was for \$623.50, and another for \$53.

Fresh paint and new toaster and waffle iron at Freeman's Cafe.—Adv.

Everything in building materials Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

Pass Charges as Postmaster Case Is Up in Lomita

Attorneys in Verbal Battles Over Rulings; Veracity of Complainant Witness Impugned by Counsel for Defense at Friday Hearing

Sharp clashes between attorneys, a demand that Henry M. Peltzer, complaining witness, be arrested on charges of attempted extortion and perjury, and a request that rulings of the court be tested in a higher tribunal featured the hearing of the burglary charge case against Charles Smith, Lomita postmaster, before Justice of the Peace Patterson in Lomita last Friday.

Smith is charged with burglary, the complaint stating that he took four cigars from the counter in the store he recently sold to Peltzer. After one of the sharpest legal encounters in the history of Lomita township's court the hearing was adjourned to March 25.

Peltzer Testifies
Peltzer was the first witness. Questioned by Edgar T. Fee, deputy district attorney, he stated that he placed Deputy Constable Ben Wayt of Torrance in the store to learn who was taking cigars from the store. He said that Wayt called him about 7 o'clock in the morning of Feb. 26 and that he went to the store, where Wayt said Smith had taken four cigars from the counter.

Attorney W. T. Kendrick, counsel for Smith, tried under cross-examination to establish that Smith under the terms of his sales and lease agreement with Peltzer was a joint tenant of the building. All questions pertaining to the lease and agreement met with objections from Fee and were in most part sustained by Justice Patterson. Fee charged Kendrick with "trying to trap the court" when Kendrick had asked the court to issue a subpoena for the documents pertaining to the sale and lease.

Asks for Papers
"We would not ask the court to bring these documents in if we did not think it was necessary," said Kendrick, "but if there is a nigger in the woodpile here, let's bring him out and not throw monkey wrenches in the process of the machinery of the law."

At this juncture Justice Patterson postponed ruling on the matter until later. Kendrick asked Peltzer if he had a financial interest in the outcome of the burglary case. Fee objected. The objection was sustained. Kendrick then asked Peltzer if he asked Smith to pay him back the amount he had put into the business and the charge would be dropped. Peltzer said "No."

Questions on this point were objected to by Fee, and the objections were sustained by the court. At this time Kendrick said he would be willing to ask for a writ and test the rulings of the court before the Superior Court.

Smith Had Key
Further questions brought out the testimony by Peltzer that Smith had the only key to the postoffice door that opens into the store. Defense counsel was trying to establish that the store in reality was the "lobby of the postoffice."

At the close of Peltzer's testimony Kendrick claimed the defendant was being "deprived of his constitutional rights."

Ben Wayt, deputy constable, testified that he stayed in the store all night from 12 or 12:30 until 4 minutes to 7 a. m., when Smith came in and took the cigars from the counter. Wayt said he was ordered to stay in the store by Constable Tabor.

Under examination by Kendrick Wayt testified that when Peltzer came down after Smith was arrested Peltzer said to Smith: "If you will give me what I paid you I will drop out of the picture and we will say nothing about it. I don't want to cause you to lose your job."

Arrest Denied
Kendrick then asked the court to place Peltzer under arrest for attempted extortion and perjury. The request was denied.

Booth Predicts Torrance Will Be Steel Center of the Coast; Tells 'Live in Torrance' Plan

Promise of new industries and the prediction that Torrance will be the steel center of the Pacific coast were made by W. L. Booth, manager of the Columbia Steel Corporation, in an address before the Rotary Club of Torrance last Thursday noon.

Mr. Booth declared that the location of a sheet steel mill in Torrance will attract industries using the Columbia's product as raw material. He made no specific predictions, but announced that important industrial announcements would be made later.

In speaking of the decision of the company to locate its big sheet mill here Mr. Booth declared that the loyalty and efficiency of the men in the mill here had much to do with the company's move in doubling the size of its plant in Torrance.

Mr. Booth said that the company will be active in encouraging its employes to live in Torrance.

Torrance Phone Gain For 1926 Is 11 Percent

Steady Growth of City Shown in Constant Increase in Telephones

Torrance's telephone exchange has grown from 16 telephones to 583 telephones since its establishment in November, 1913, according to Fred W. Smith, manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. The growth, Mr. Smith stated, has been in a steady trend, with no declines or extreme jumps.

"Torrance had a growth of 61 telephones during 1926, or an 11.57 percent gain.

The year following the establishment of telephone service here Torrance had 16 telephones. In 1916 there were 30 telephones; in 1917, 35; in 1920, 92; in 1921, 194; in 1922, 228; in 1923, 277; in 1924, 335; in 1925, 463; and in 1927, 527.

CHURCH SUPPER

The Episcopal Women's Guild will give another of their popular suppers on Tuesday, March 22, from 5 to 7 p. m. Tickets are 50 cents. "That," says the committee, "makes it cheaper than eating at home."

Apartment Permit For Corner Asked

At the request of W. R. Page the Board of Trustees Tuesday night voted to allow a builder to erect an apartment house up to the property line on a lot at Post and Coia avenues, provided consent was obtained from owners of property within 300 feet of the proposed site.

T. J. Nestor In Building Plan For Torrance

T. J. Nestor announces he is opening a new tract at Torrance. He is building two- and three-room cottages that he is selling with a 50x100-foot lot for \$1750, and gives 10 Chinchilla fur rabbit does and a buck free with each house. Mr. Nestor states he is building 10 of these houses now, putting in lights, water, gas, and lavatory. He is also putting in all improvements at this time, such as grading streets, etc. He invites you to go to his new tract, have a lunch, and hear a lecture given by one of the best speakers on the fur rabbit industry in Southern California. He has also opened a large demonstration farm, where he teaches how to care for fur rabbits and also manufactures beautiful fur garments that may be seen on display right at the farm.

Cuts and Raises In New Torrance License Ordinance

Changes in the business license ordinance were contained in a new ordinance introduced at the trustees' meeting Tuesday night. Regular business licenses will be reduced from \$24 to \$12 a year. Peddlers' licenses will be \$25 a day. The fee for distributing handbills by outside firms will be \$25 a day. Contractors' licenses will be \$50 a year and each contractor will be required to furnish a \$100 bond.

26 Kiwanians Will Attend Big Banquet Tomorrow Night

Twenty-six Torrance Kiwanians and their wives are planning to attend a Kiwanis inter-city banquet at the Virginia Hotel Friday night. On of the principal speakers will be Wendell Thomas, governor of the California and Nevada district, the largest district in Kiwanis International, an organization of 1545 clubs with more than 100,000 members in the United States and Canada. Mr. Thomas was lieutenant-governor of the district for two years and was responsible for organizing 15 new clubs. He is president of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce and is well known throughout the west.

Weather Records Here Are Urged

Trustee Willie M. Brooks was detailed by the trustees Tuesday night to investigate prices of meteorological instruments to record rainfall, wind, and weather conditions in Torrance. The suggestion that instruments be purchased and records kept by the city was made by the Chamber of Commerce.

CLEAN-UP CALDER'S REQUEST

County Men at Chief's Institution in Saturday Night Raid

ABOUT FORTY ARRESTED

Three Proprietors and Many Alleged Players Are Taken

In response to a request from Chief of Police Calder of Torrance officers from the district attorney's office of Los Angeles County, headed by George Contreras, swept down on Torrance poolrooms Saturday night, interrupted poker games, arrested proprietors and alleged players on gambling charges, and took three men into custody for asserted violations of the Wright act.

The proprietors, players, and asserted liquor law violators were swept to the Torrance police station in private automobiles commandeered by the officers. At the station Contreras fixed bail at \$50 for the proprietors of the pool rooms and \$10 each for the players. Three raids were conducted simultaneously. At the Industrial Pool Hall on El Prado, Louis Sanchez, proprietor, and nine alleged players were arrested.

Across the street, at Al's Place, Al Currier, proprietor, and 15 asserted players were taken into custody, and W. G. Phillips and Ed Burke arrested as alleged "dealers." While two groups were conducting the raids on El Prado a third raided the United Cigar Store at Granerney and Cabrillo avenues. Here the officers found an alleged poker game in progress in a basement room. Ben Rappaport, proprietor, and nine alleged players were arrested.

In the sweeping cleanup the officers nabbed Paul ("Steamboat Bill") LeGrande, C. C. Martin and Gus Newman on liquor violation charges. LeGrande and Newman were charged with selling liquor and were released on \$1000 bail. Martin was charged with possession and was taken to Los Angeles when he was unable to furnish bond in the sum of \$500.

Dry Agent Along
The district attorney's squad was accompanied by Frank E. Benedict, assistant federal prohibition commissioner. Benedict said he found no evidence of liquor sales by the poolrooms.

The raids were made at the request of Chief Calder. The chief declares that some time ago he warned the poolroom proprietors to stop the alleged gambling games. The warning followed several complaints, one of them being from a Torrance woman who declares that her husband lost \$700 in a poker game in Torrance.

When the warnings went unheeded Calder says he decided raids were necessary. Needed Big Squad
To secure enough men to permit of simultaneous raids on all suspected places the chief asked the help of the county officers. County operatives, it is asserted, made a liquor "buy" from LeGrande and Newman, and investigated the asserted games in Torrance, before making the raids. The officers entered a fourth place, where a "sky-limit" poker game has been in operation, according to reports. No game was in progress.

A table at which the asserted poker game at the United was in progress was smashed by officers. Reports in Los Angeles to the effect that a woman had "shot up" a Torrance poolroom were not substantiated by local investigation. When the crowd of alleged proprietors and players were being taken to the Torrance police headquarters crowds on the streets (Continued on Last Page)

THREE BIG FEATURES

Don't Fail to Read
"THE LEADING LADY"
By
GERALDINE BONNER
First Installment Next Week

Good Recipes

The First of Series of Famous Cooking Recipes Will Be Published Next Week.

Last Word in Dress

Watch for Our New Fashion Feature Next Week.